



OFFICE OF THE  
BRIGADE COMMANDER

## UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES

4301 JONES BRIDGE ROAD  
BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20814-4712  
www.usuhs.mil



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### MEMORANDUM FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE USUHS BRIGADE

SUBJECT: Brigade Commander's Policy Statement on Fraternization

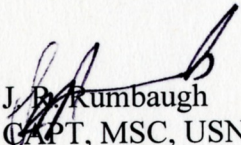
Inappropriate relationships erode good order, discipline, respect for authority, unit cohesion, and ultimately mission accomplishment through favoritism, preferential treatment, or the appearance thereof. It is the responsibility of each member of the Uniformed Services University of the Sciences (USUHS) Brigade, to insure that fraternization is not tolerated at any level. Each member shares the responsible for maintaining professional relationships. Relationships that violate this policy will be grounds for taking appropriate disciplinary action against those involved.

Fraternization is unduly familiar interpersonal conduct, creating the perception of favoritism and an atmosphere in which discipline may be difficult to impose. Fraternization pertains to all relationships that could have an adverse impact on good order and discipline. Unprofessional relationships can exists between officers, between enlisted members, between officers and enlisted members, between students and staff, between military and civilian employees or contract personnel. Relationships are unprofessional, whether pursued on or off duty.

All four Services prohibit fraternization. See OPNAVINST 5370.2B, MCO 1000.9, AR 600-20, and AFI36-2909. Violations of these regulations subject the involved members to disciplinary action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) for violations of lawful general regulations.

The focus of this policy is on the senior-subordinate relationship, and as such, is gender neutral. Proper social interaction among officers, senior and junior enlisted members has always been encouraged to enhance unit morale, customs, and traditions. However, unduly familiar relationships among these groups are contrary to the Armed Forces, as they undermine the respect for authority essential to accomplish the military mission.

Issues concerning fraternization should be referred through the chain of command. Guidance should be sought from the Senior Services Advisors, Senior Enlisted Leader, Brigade Equal Opportunity Officer, and the Brigade Legal Officer.

  
J. B. Rumbaugh  
CAPT, MSC, USN